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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

# INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Animal Diseases/Veterinarian Policies

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**SOURCE**

1. Before 1939 there were animal hospitals in Lwow, Stanislaw, Tarnopol and Sambor. These were all large private hospitals which serviced the western Ukraine. The clients paid for all services, but after 1939 when the Soviets controlled these hospitals only the medicines were paid for.
2. There were very few cases of animal infection and disease before 1939, and those which existed were well controlled. Anthrax was the most common disease found in horses, but it was never serious. Malleur (Glanders?) (Latin phonetic spelling) was very rare. In 1939 a check was made of all horses in the Stanislaw District and only four cases were found. After the Soviets arrived in the Stanislaw District, farcy, scabies and anemia infections appeared. In particular, cases of anthrax and scabies noticeably multiplied. It is our belief that the Soviets brought many of these diseases and infections into the Stanislaw District, and the changes in policy which came about when the Soviets "took over" did not help with the curtailment of the diseases.
3. Disease among cattle became more widespread. Lung parasites (Strongylosis mirurus - spl ?) was the most severe cattle disease. In 1940 and later, this disease increased to as high as 98% of all cattle. Before 1939, there was no evidence of this disease. A great deal of hard work was necessary to treat the cattle. Lugol (iodine and water) injections were given in the throat (first on the left side and then on the right side of the throat); this treatment had little effect because the cattle would eat grass which had become infected with the parasites from dung. Anthrax also increased.
4. Disease among hogs increased, but not to the extent of cattle diseases. Erysipelas, cholera, trichinosis and cysticercus became very evident. In 1940 the Soviets sent erysipelas vaccine from Kiev. We had always used serum and culture, and this vaccine was new to us. It caused con-

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siderable trouble throughout the whole Stanislav area. The hogs were not immune and became very sick. Inasmuch as many hogs died within the first two months, we were ordered to discontinue using the vaccine.

5. Up to 1939, the western Ukraine was divided into five districts, each district having several counties. After the Soviets arrived, the districts were divided into seven or eight times as many counties. Each county had a small veterinary hospital which created a shortage of competent personnel. Veterinary schools were started in each district, and a short six-week course was given. Graduates from these courses were called veterinarian helpers or assistants. The shortage of competent personnel put a heavy work load on these veterinary "graduates," and because it is impossible to learn enough about veterinary medicine in a six-week course to assume the veterinary duties, most of the action taken by these graduates did more harm than good.
6. Each county in the Stanislav District made a detailed veterinarian report every week which was sent to district headquarters. These reports were consolidated into one report which was made up in five copies. The distribution was as follows: one copy each to - Headquarters of the Agricultural Department at Kiev, Communist Party headquarters in Stanislav, the NKVD in Stanislav, a copy was retained by the district headquarters, and distribution of the fifth copy was unknown. This policy was later changed. Each county now made the following reports to district: a report to the district each week, a consolidated report each month, a further consolidated report every three months, and an annual consolidated report. District headquarters reported as follows: a consolidated report of counties to Kiev every two weeks, every three months, and an annual consolidated report. These reports were double checked against each other and the most minute discrepancy would result in an investigation and severe punishment. The veterinarians would get into trouble over matters for which they were not responsible, and often spent weeks straightening them out. In some cases, they were punished anyway.
7. During inspection tours of packing houses in the Lvov and Lodz area in 1942 and 1944, an average of five per cent of the carcasses were infected. They were destroyed by burning. All counties in this district sent samples of meat to Lvov for inspection in the government bacteriology laboratory. The laboratory sent results of these inspections to the county accompanied by orders for any action to be taken. If a disease was found, the government laboratory would telephone to the county officials directing them to take immediate action. The written report and orders followed.
8. During the time we worked in the district, very little research was being done within the district. Research was conducted in Kiev, or at higher echelons. In fact, the veterinarians were more or less "kept in the dark" as to research being done by the Soviets. During 1942 and 1944 the Germans conducted an extensive program in artificial insemination with cattle. The program itself was extensive enough to reach all cattle raisers, but was interrupted by the return of the Soviets. It was not in operation long enough for results to be obtained.

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